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#### POLAR NUMISMATIST

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## LIVENGOOD THE LAST STAMPEDE

Audrey E. Parker (from the book of the same title)



# TOKEN

#### The Livengood Inn

Records found in the Fairbanks District Recorder's Office indicate that Alma Harm Chatnnet of Livengood bought a two-story, framed building known as the "New Deal" on Front Street from Thomas McKinnon for approximately \$817 in April 1938. A newspaper article in 1938 stated the building had formerly been a roadhouse owned by Lee Merry.

Alma came to Livengood in May 1937 to visit her sister, and she liked the community so much that she stayed. After buying the "New Deal," she renamed it the "Livengood Inn" and modernized the place by updating the kitchen and dining room as well as installing a new electric power plant. The Livengood Inn was located on the north side of Front Street, about midway down the street. An open house held on Saturday, October 21, 1938, attracted over 150 guests, residents and visitors from Fairbanks for the all-night party. There was music for waltzes, polkas, schottishes, and square dances, and a midnight lunch was served. Reportedly, Alma bought a Wurlitzer (electric radio-phonograph) to supplement live piano and violin music.

During the months of normal operation, the Livengood Inn served daily meals to 60 to 70 men and provided sleeping accommodations for 12. It soon became the social center of the Livengood community. With the advent of World War II and the decline of mining in the area, business dropped off and Alma lost the business in 1943 when McKinnon foreclosed on the Livengood Inn and its property. John Radak then purchased the Livengood Inn for \$2,050 at a public auction.

For many years thereafter, the Radak brothers operated the Livengood Inn. The inn was a popular watering hole for thirsty miners, a place they could drink cold beer while listening to a player piano.

#### The Pioneer Pool Room

The saloon and restaurant was affectionately called "The Pioneer" was the first building on the south side of the main road into town. Upon entering the building, visitors would see a long bar on the right and a small store on the left. Customers could buy candy, cigarettes, soda and other items besides liquor at the bar. Children could count on someone buying them treats, as single miners were delighted to mix with families.

The restaurant part of the saloon was at the far end, through a middle doorway. It contained a large table with benches capable of seating many people. The Pioneer had a friendly, comfortable atmosphere, and miners brought their families there to visit other local residents.

Charlie Erickson and his wife, "Ma," bought the saloon and restaurant in 1939. They ran it until 1956 when they sold it to Les and Nancy Skov. The Pioneer burned down on April 14, 1958.

("Livengood, the Last Stampede," 158 pages packed with local history, is available from ARC for \$19.95 plus \$3.95 priority mail shipping and handling.)

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#### EDITOR'S COMMENTS PRICES REALIZED

This month we are please to bring you a short excerpt of "Livengood, the Last Stampede" by Audrey E. Parker. This local history is a welcome addition to our library. And when you look up the tokens of Livengood in "Alaska Tokens" by Ron Benice, you will find them under "Brooks," the original name of Livengood.

I was looking at Roy's Coins website (http://home.gci.net/~roycoins) and found a few items that were new to us. You can find them in "For the Record."

Kaye Dethridge offered three exciting pieces of dance hall scrip on eBay recently, and they can be seen on page 3.

Last month, we forgot to include the prices realized from our November auction. Well, we did not forget this month, but ran out of room (and time!). Look for them in the next issue.

Speaking of the next issue, you can look for it around the first of March. I will be leaving on a 3+ week vacation on January 15. You may receive a surprise in the mail in the meantime. How far can you go on 50,000 Alaska Airlines miles;)

We are not offering much for sale in this issue, but if you order, please keep in mind that I will return to the store about February 8th.

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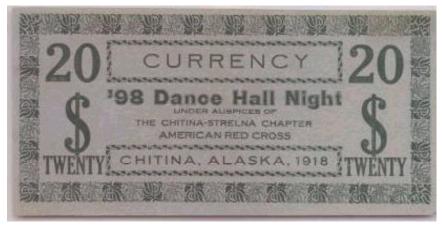
Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage, Canteen Bar, 12½¢, B-10	a 36.00
Anchorage, Masonic Penny, B-28c-e?	36.00
Anchorage, Union Club set of 4, B-38	17.50
Chisana, Anderton, 25¢, B-1a	10.50
Chitina, Navada Bar, 12½¢, B-4a	169.50
<b>Cleary,</b> W&W, 25¢, B-5a	100.99
Cordova, The Club C&M, 25¢, B-10a	
Cordova, Cordova House, 5¢, B-14a	
Cordova, Cordova House, 5¢, B-14aC	
Cordova, Horseshoe, 6¼¢, B-20a	OB75.00NB
Cordova, Horseshoe, 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ¢, B-20a OF	
Craig, L&J, 50¢, B-3c	OB9.99NB
<b>Dillingham,</b> Bradford, $5\phi$ , B-1a	199.00OB
<u> </u>	1,026.00
Gambier Bay, Hoonah Pkg, 5¢, B-1a	
Goodnews Bay, Jean, \$5, B-1d	140.27
Juneau, AK Hotel, 12½¢, B-2b	35.99
Juneau, AK Hotel, 12½¢, B-2b	38.00
<b>Juneau</b> , Elks, 12½¢, B-19bi,	OB75.00NB
<b>Juneau</b> , Elks, 12½¢, B-19bi, holed	OB75.00NB
(Juneau), Garnick encased cent, round	
<b>Ketchikan,</b> Abercrombie's, 8¢, B-1c	9.99OB
Ketchikan, Lodge #224, B-25a	OB250.00NB
offered	l at \$750BIN
Ketchikan, Lange's, \$1, B-29d	OB20.00NB
<b>Ketchikan,</b> Lotus, 5¢, B-31b	OB200.00
<b>Ketchikan,</b> Pioneer Pool, 10¢, B-47a	24.99OB
Ketchikan, Scoug's, \$1, B-56d	40.00OB
Long, Willis, 25¢, B-2a	45.00
Nome, Hoffman, B-26a	143.83
<b>Nome,</b> Mulloy, 25¢, B-33a	OB45.00
Nome, Pioneer Drug, 25¢, B-40a	1,225.00
Northern Comm. Co., "T", B-3b	800.00BIN
Port Alexander, TJ Jacobsen, \$1, B-4	
Seward, Northern, 12½¢, B-8bii?	31.00
<b>Seward,</b> Northern, 12½¢, B-8bi?	36.00
	32.70
Seward, The Palace, 12½¢, B-9c	
Skagway, Idaho Saloon, 10¢, B-14a	8.01
Skagway, Idaho Saloon, 10¢, B-14a	11.50
Skagway, Idaho Saloon, 25¢, B-14c	15.00OB
Skagway, Idaho Saloon, 25¢, B-14c	OB49.99
Skagway, McCreedy 50¢, B-16d	16.50
<b>Skagway</b> , Mascot, 12½¢, B-17c	26.50
<b>Skagway,</b> Pullen House, Meal, B-22a	11.50
<b>Sparrevohn,</b> 5¢, B-1b	9.99OB
<b>Valdez,</b> Buffet, 12½¢, B-4b	15.00OB
<b>Yes Bay,</b> APF, 5¢, B-3a	OB75.00NB
<b>Yes Bay,</b> APF, \$1, B-3e	OB75.00NB

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve BIN = Buy it now

#### PAPER POTPOURRI

Kaye Dethridge offered a trio of classic Alaska paper items on eBay recently. These have been known to the collecting fraternity for a number of years, but I believe that this was the first public sale of these items.



The first is a \$20 scrip note from the Chitina-Strelna Chapter of the American Red Cross for a "'98 Dance Hall Night held in Chitina. Shown above at a reduced size (actual size about 179mm by 93mm), the paper appears to be sort of gray, and the printing of an indeterminate color. There is no printing on the reverse. PR = \$415



What appears to be companion pieces to the Chitina piece, there were two pieces offered from McCarthy. Sponsored by the Arctic Brotherhood, Camp No. 33 on March 15, 1918, scrip \$5 and \$10 notes were offered for sale. Shown at a reduced size (actual size about 195mm by 93mm. The \$5 is printed with blue ink on tan paper, while the \$10 is green printing on gray paper. The pair sold for \$1085.

Both were issued in 1918 and perhaps used in fund raising events for the Red Cross during World War I.

#### FOR THE RECORD



**ANCHORAGE:** Alley Cat, bifacial poker chip, gold on yellow (Dethridge).



(**FORT GREELY**): Civilian Mess, good for 10 in trade. Red fiber, 24mm. PR \$80 (Dethridge, eBay).





**JUNEAU:** MacMillan Bros., 61/4¢ in trade. Brass, 21mm. (Dethridge, eBay, PR \$1,103.12)





**(WAINWRIGHT):** Midnight Sun, 5¢ in trade, brass, 20mm. A 10¢ is tentatively attributed to Wainwright (eBay, PR 44.43).



**MAVERICK:** Klondike Billiard Hall, 5¢ in trade. From Klondike, Iowa! There was also a "Klondike Store" that issued tokens.





**ALASKA RAILROAD:** Silver bar from a set, presumably the Franklin Mint with the logo of the Alaska Railroad in yellow and blue. Weight unknown, 28mm by 45mm.



**ALASKA:** Minted Exclusively for Wilbert. Reverse is state seal. The purpose and issuer of the medal is unknown. Diameter unknown, gold colored aluminum (eBay).



**ALASKA:** "Binky, 1994-95 Man of the Year," one ounce silver. Binky was the famous polar bear at the Anchorage Zoo. I don't recall the exact story, but some idiot climbed into Binky's cage for a swim one night, and escaped with his life. Binky kept the sneaker (hanging from his mouth)!

#### FOR THE RECORD





**CRAIG:** Moose Lodge 1206, Spring Conference 1986. 34mm, cupronickel (Roy's Coins).





**TAKOTNA:** Takotna Bar, good for one drink. Aluminum, 32mm (Roy's Coins).





**"KLONDIKE":** Counterstamped on an 1898 Canadian 50 Cents coin.





**FAIRBANKS:** Club Alaskan, good for one free drink, black on wood, with a red \$1 overstamp, reported used as a beer token.

**FAIRBANKS:** Club Alaskan, good for one free drink, orange on wood. (Illustrated at the top of the next column).









**ALASKAN COMMAND:** Alaskan Armed Forces Championship Tournament, (downhill skier) 1955. Brass or gilt, about 25mm (eBay \$5.85).









**ALASKAN SILVER COIN:** Two different sets of dies, one with fine lines, 39mm, the other thicker lines, 38.6mm. While .4mm does not sound like much, it is quite noticeable. Only one fine line so far. Special on the thick line - \$10 plus \$3 postage; 10 for \$85 plus 5.25 postage; 100 for \$8 each plus actual postage - call.

### 25 YEAR INDEX

We have compiled a 25 year index. It is 33 pages, and frankly, we are impressed that we have printed so much trivia in 25 years. **Postpaid - \$10**